

Jack and the Beanstalk

12. Golden eggs

The Giant roared again. 'Lay me a golden egg, hen!' The hen clucked happily - but nothing happened. 'Maybe if you ask it a bit more nicely, it will do what you want,' suggested the Giant's wife. 'Oh, alright,' huffed the Giant. 'Hen, lay me a golden egg, *please*.' The little hen stopped clucking and sat down...



When it stood up again, there on the table sat a shiny golden egg. 'Oh goody!' cried the Giant. 'Lay me another!' 'Now don't be greedy, husband,' said his wife.

'Besides, haven't we got enough? There are so many of these golden eggs lying around, I keep tripping over them!' The little hen had shut her eyes and gone to sleep. 'Er - why don't you have a little snooze too?' suggested the Giant's wife. 'Hmmm, I am feeling rather dozy,' the Giant replied.



The next minute he was fast asleep. Jack climbed down from the chimney. 'I can find this magic hen some new owners,' he said. 'People who are so poor and hungry that they will sell golden eggs for real ones!'

The Giant's wife didn't answer back, but she did give Jack a giant smile - and an even bigger wink than last time.



Jack picked up the sleeping hen and ran as fast as he could back to the beanstalk.

When they reached the ground, the hen opened its eyes and clucked happily.



'I'm so glad you're back home safe and sound, Jack!' said Ma. 'What have you brought back this time?'

'Watch this,' said Jack, as he placed the hen on the kitchen table. The hen must have wanted to please Jack - because it laid a second golden egg! Ma was over the moon with delight. 'A bag of money soon runs out,' she said. 'But this very special hen can lay us golden eggs as long as she lives. We and the villagers won't have to worry about food ever again!'



Jack looked out of the window at the snow-covered beanstalk and said to himself quietly: 'And I hope I never have to return to the castle ever again!'